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Message Text

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PAGE 01 SAIGON 00651 171407Z

43
ACTION EA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 DPW-01 NSC-05 NSCE-00 INR-05

CIAE-00 L-01 PRS-01 PM-03 DODE-00 SY-02 SAM-01 RSC-01

/041 W
---------- 068826
R 171120Z JAN 75
FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1973
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 0651

LIMDIS

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR TH VN US VS LA
SUBJECT: BRANFMAN AND FITZGERALD VISIT

REF: VIENTIANE 0356

1. FOLLOWING ARE POINTS OF INTEREST FROM AMBASSADOR WHITEHOUSE'S REPO
RT
TO US ON SUBJECT VISIT. (REFTEL).

2. BRANFMAN AND FITZGERALD WERE ACCOMPANIED BY A MAN DESCRIBED AS A MUSICIAN AND TWO OR THREE OTHER UNNAMED PERSONS. FITZGERALD SAID SHE HAD BEEN IN NORTH VIETNAM FOR ABOUT TWO WEEKS BUT HAD DECIDED AGAINST GOING TO DONG HA AS THIS WOULD TAKE TOO LONG. SHE SPENT HER TIME IN TWO PROVINCES NEAR HANOI VISITING COOPERATIVES. SHE COMMENTED THAT THE PEASANTS IN NORTH VIETNAM ARE JUST AS HARD TO ORGANIZE AS THEY
ARE IN THE SOUTH AND SHE DID NOT BELIEVE THEY WERE ON A STRICT SCHEDULE
OF CALISTHENICS, POLITICAL INDOCTRINATION, ETC. SHE NOTED THAT THE OFFICIAL WHO ORGANIZED VISITS BY AMERICANS IS EFFICIENT AND LIKE-ABLE, COMPARING HIM UNFAVORABLY WITH THE OFFICIAL WHO HANDLES
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3. IN A COURTESY CALL ON PRIME MINISTER PHAM VAN DONG, DONG RAISED WITH FITZGERALD THE POW/MIA ISSUE, ON WHICH HE SAID NO PROGRESS COULD BE MADE AT THIS TIME, BUT NOT TO MAKE A NOTE OF THAT AS HE HAD ALREADY SO INFORMED THE USG.

4. AT LUNCH WITH AMBASSADOR WHITEHOUSE SUNDAY JANUARY 12 BRANFMAN AND FITZGERALD EXPRESSED THEMSELVES CAREFULLY, ALTHOUGH BRANFMAN DID OPINE THAT IT WOULD SAVE TROUBLE, AND PROBABLY SOME BLOODSHED, IF WE SIMPLY PERSUADED THE VIETNAMESE SIDE TO CAPITULATE TO ALL PATHET LAO DEMANDS.

5. MISS FITZGERALD SAID SHE WOULD ARRIVE IN WASHINGTON ABOUT JANUARY 25 TRAVELLING FROM VIENTIANE VIA NEW DELHI AND KABUL.
MARTIN

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